



Cuidemos Nuestra Salud: Sustainable community based participatory research

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Summary

Cuidemos Nuestra Salud is a sustainable program of community-based participatory research (CBPR) conducted by an international team of university faculty and students and community members in Managua, Nicaragua. This presentation reports on the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a community-based HIV/AIDS education initiative.

The CBPR project (Mosavel, Simon, van Stade, & Buchbinder, 2005) began with a community assessment focused on community strengths, challenges, and health related concerns. Assessment methods included interviews with a convenience sample of 50 families, interviews with community leaders, and focus groups with parents and teachers. Data from the assessment were summarized and

discussed with community partners who identified HIV/AIDS as a priority, focusing on misconceptions about transmission and stigmatization. Further discussion led to agreement that an educational intervention was needed. Community partners recommended using a DVD format so that residents could review the materials in the privacy of their homes.

A pre-test/post-test design was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention using a structured interview designed to assess attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge about HIV/AIDS in Nicaraguans (Manji, Peña & Dubrow, 2007).

A total of 175 of the 400 households in the community completed the pre-test interview and accepted an educational DVD; 68 households had at least one member who also completed the post-test interview administered three months later. Of those, 59 provided complete responses to all 14 questions about HIV transmission and were used for the analysis reported here. Pre-test results suggest significant health implications. Of most concern is the lack of recognition of HIV transmission by oral sex or by a person who has the virus but “looks healthy”; 25% and 40% of participants, respectively, responded incorrectly. A paired t-test of mean difference revealed an average increase of one correct response ($p < .001$) following the intervention, suggesting that knowledge about HIV transmission increased.

References

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